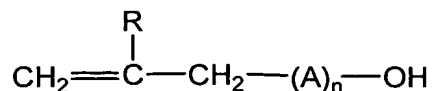


We claim:

1. A method for preparing a low-yellowing acrylic polyol, said method comprising free radically copolymerizing an allylic alcohol, an alkyl acrylate or methacrylate, and optionally a vinyl comonomer selected from the group consisting of vinyl aromatics, vinyl ethers, and vinyl esters in an initiator concentration less than or equal to 0.8 wt % of the total amount of monomers, wherein the resulting acrylic polyol has an APHA color increase less than 100% when mixed with 1.5 wt %, based on the amount of the acrylic polyol, of an UV light stabilizer.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the initiator concentration is less than or equal to 0.5 wt % of the total amount of monomers.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the free radical initiator is selected from the group consisting of alkyl peroxides, hydroperoxides, peresters, and azo compounds.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the copolymerization is performed in the presence of an organic solvent.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of alcohols, ethers, esters, ketones, glycol ethers, glycol ether esters, aliphatic and aromatic hydrocarbons, and mixtures thereof.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein the solvent is present in an amount less than 50 wt % of the total amount of the monomers.
7. The method of claim 4, wherein the solvent is present in an amount less than 30 wt % of the total amount of the monomers.
8. The method of claim 4, wherein the solvent is present in an amount less than 10 wt % of the amount of the total amount of the monomers.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the allylic alcohol has the general structure:



wherein R is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁-C₁₀ alkyls, and C₆-C₁₂ aryls; A is an oxyalkylene group; and n, which represents an average number of oxyalkylene groups, is from about 0 to about 5.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein n is from about 1 to about 2.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein n is about 1.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the allylic alcohol is selected from the group consisting of allyl alcohol, methallyl alcohol, allyl alcohol propoxylates, and allyl alcohol ethoxylates.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the allylic alcohol is allyl alcohol monopropoxylate.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the alkyl acrylate or methacrylate is selected from C₁-C₂₀ alkyl acrylates and methacrylates.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the alkyl acrylate or methacrylate is n-butyl acrylate.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the APHA color increase is 50% or less.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the resulting acrylic polyol has a number average molecular weight within the range of about 500 to about 10,000 and a polydispersity (the ratio of the weight average molecular weight over the number average molecular weight) within the range of about 1.5 to about 3.5.